

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 11, 15, 18, 22, and 24 have been amended. No claim has been added or canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 15 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended.

Claims 17 and 19-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kremer. Applicants traverse the rejection. Claim 17 recites, "A network transmission system, comprising: a plurality of nodes, wherein upon a fault condition in which obstacles have occurred in more than one group in at least one of said plurality of nodes, said node suffering said fault condition isolates itself from others of said plurality of nodes in said network transmission system." In the claimed invention, the node "suffering said fault condition isolates itself from other of said plurality of nodes in said network transmission system."

The Examiner indicated that Kremer discloses the above features from col. 7, line 67 to col. 8, line 12. Here, Kremer merely discloses the process for handling a node failure. It does not disclose that the node experiencing the fault isolates itself, as recited in claim 17. Rather, Kremer states that the nodes adjacent to the faulty node isolates the faulty node (col. 9, lines 12-18). Accordingly, claim 17 is allowable.

Claim 24 recites, "a method for recovering from a plurality of substantially contemporaneous faults in a network node, said network node capable of transmitting information as synchronous multiplex signals via a plurality of transmission lines, including a first one and a second one, said method comprising: preparing isolation information into an instruction signal according to said plurality of substantially contemporaneous faults, wherein said node experiencing said faults prepares said isolation information itself; providing said isolation information to at least one of a plurality of adjacent network nodes; and switching said transmission lines based upon said instruction signal so that said synchronous multiplex signals may be transmitted to either of said transmission lines properly." Kremer does not disclose the above recited features. Claim 24 is allowable.

Claims 11-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kremer in view of Bala et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 11, recites, "... wherein responsive to detection of a condition in which obstacles have occurred in more than one group, in at least one of said plurality of transmission apparatuses, said equipment supervision unit comprised in the transmission apparatus having said obstacles creates optical transmitter output isolation instruction information in order to isolate said transmission apparatus itself in which obstacles have occurred in more than one group, from said network." That is, the claimed invention relates to having the node experiencing the fault isolate itself. Kremer does not disclose this feature. Bala et al. does not remedy this deficiency of Kremer. Claim 11 is allowable. Claims 12-16 depend from claim 11 and are allowable at least for this reason. Claim 18 is allowable from claim 17 and is allowable at least for this reason.

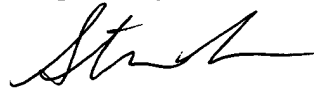
Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-10.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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